

In the claims: The claims are as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~by which a first device (11)~~
~~provides a connection (14) to a second device (12) for a~~
communication device, characterized by comprising:

~~a step (20) in which the first device (11) obtains storing~~
~~infrom a contacts bearer data store (11d-11d')~~ association
information for a contact that is indicated in the contacts bearer
data store by an identifier, the association information including
a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the a
connection (14) to the contact, wherein the contacts bearer data
store (11d-11d') associates contacts with bearers so as to arrange
the association information by contact each of the possible
bearers for the contact is stored so as to be associated with the
contact via the identifier for the contact; and

~~a step (28) in which the first device (11) selects selecting~~
~~from the contacts bearer data store one of the at least two~~
~~possible bearers for the contact based on the identifier and~~
~~either based on a predetermined selection strategy (11b) or by~~
~~based on trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn~~
~~until the connection (14) is made;~~

~~thereby automatically wherein the selecting of a the bearer~~
~~for the contact for providing the connection (14) to the second~~
~~device (12) is performed automatically without requiring an input~~
~~by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing the~~
~~connection (14).~~

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, ~~further characterized by:~~

~~— a step (20) in which the association information is stored in~~
~~a contacts bearer data store (11d-11d'); and~~

~~— a step (24) in which the first device (11) refers to the~~
~~contacts bearer data store (11d-11d') accessible to the first~~

~~device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14).~~

2. Canceled.

3. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 21, further characterized by comprising:

~~a step (24) in which the first device (11) refers to referring to an owner bearer data store (11e) to obtain a list of bearers available to the first device for use in establishing a connection to another communication device (11) and also refers to a bearer selection strategy data store (11b) to obtain the predetermined selection strategy; and~~

~~— a step (25) in which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d-11d') to obtain a list of possible bearers for providing the connection (14) and an address for each of the possible bearers; and~~

~~a step (26) in which the first device determining a list of both possible and available bearers for the contact by (11) eliminates from eliminating from the list of possible bearers for the contact any bearer that does not occur on the list of available bearers.~~

4. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, further characterized in that wherein a public source of contact information is used in the ~~step (20) of obtaining~~ the association information ~~(11d-11d')~~.

5. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, further characterized in that ~~in the step (20) of~~ wherein in obtaining the association information ~~(11d-11d')~~, ~~the~~ a second device ~~(12)~~ communicates to the ~~first device (10)~~ the association information needed by the ~~first device (10)~~ for automatically selecting a

bearer for communication with the ~~second device~~contact ~~(12)~~.

6. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the predetermined selection strategy ~~(11b)~~ indicates selecting a bearer based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list ~~(11d-11d')~~ hosted in the ~~first device~~ ~~(11)~~; fastest to connect when the ~~first device~~ ~~(11)~~ attempts to make different connections in parallel ~~to the second device~~ ~~(12)~~ via different possible bearers; wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.

7. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 6, wherein the predetermined threshold for latency indicates a minimum quality of service ~~(QoS)~~ requirement for the connection ~~(14)~~.

8. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 7, further comprising ~~a step (29) of periodically checking~~ comparing the QoS quality of service to the minimum quality of service requirement during communication via the connection ~~(14)~~ and initiating a bearer change if the ~~QoS~~ quality of service is no longer sufficient.

9. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein the association information ~~(11d-11d')~~ includes a bearer identifier for each of at least two different bearers both associated with the ~~second device~~ a same second device ~~(12)~~.

10. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the association information ~~(11d-11d')~~ for each bearer further includes an indication of the contact, a bearer identifier, and an address for use with each ~~the bearer associated with the second device~~ ~~(12)~~.

~~11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein in the step (28) of selecting a bearer, the first device (11) attempts to connect to the second device (12) based on an association of the second device (12) linking the second device (12) to a name of an intended recipient.~~

11. Canceled.

~~12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein in the step (28) of selecting a bearer, the first device (11) attempts to connect to the second device (12) using the at least two different bearers included in the association information (11d 11d') as associated with the second device (12).~~

12. Canceled.

13. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising: a computer readable storage structure embodying computer program code thereon for execution by a computer processor ~~in a first device (11), said computer program code for use in providing for the first device (11) a connection (14) to a second device (12),~~ said computer program code comprising instructions for performing a method as in claim 1:

~~—— computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (20) in which the first device (11) obtains from a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') association information including a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14), wherein the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') associates contacts with bearers so as to arrange the association information by contact; and~~

~~—— computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (28) in which the first device (11) selects one of the at least two possible bearers based on a predetermined~~

~~selection strategy (11b) or by trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until the connection (14) is made;~~

~~—said computer program code thereby providing functionality for automatically selecting a bearer for providing the connection (14) to the second device (12) without requiring an input by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing the connection (14).~~

14. (Original) ~~A computer program product as in claim 13, further characterized by:~~

~~—computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (20) of storing the association information in a contacts bearer data store (11d-11d'); and~~

~~—computer program code for causing the computer processor to perform a step (24) in which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d-11d') accessible to the first device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14).~~

14. Canceled.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus included for use in a first communication device (11) for enabling the first device (11) to provide a connection (14) to a second device (12), characterized by comprising:

means (11a) for obtaining from a contacts bearer data store (11d-11d'), for storing association information for a contact that is indicated in the contacts bearer data store by an identifier, the association information including a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the a connection (14) to the contact, wherein each of the possible bearers for the contact is stored so as to be associated with the contact via the identifier for the contact~~the contacts bearer data store (11d-11d')~~

~~associates contacts with bearers so as to arrange the association information by contact; and~~

~~means (11a) for selecting from the contacts bearer data store one of the at least two possible bearers for the contact based on the identifier and either based on a predetermined selection strategy (11b) or by based on trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until the connection (14) is made;~~

~~wherein the apparatus is configured to select the bearer for the contact automatically without requiring an input by a user of the communication device thereby enabling automatic selection of a bearer for providing the connection (14) to the second device (12) without requiring an input by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing the connection (14).~~

16. (Original) ~~An apparatus as in claim 15, further characterized by:~~

~~— means (20) for storing the association information in a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d'); and~~

~~— means (24) by which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') accessible to the first device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14).~~

16. Canceled.

17. (Currently amended) An apparatus as in claim 15, wherein the predetermined selection strategy (11b) indicates selecting a bearer based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list (11d 11d') hosted in the first device communication device (11); and fastest to connect ~~when the first device (11) attempts to make different connections in parallel to the second device (12) via different possible bearers;~~

and wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus as in claim 15, wherein the association information ~~(11d 11d')~~ for each bearer includes an indication of the contact, a bearer identifier, for each of at least two different bearers associated with the second device (12) and an address for use with the bearer.

~~19. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 15, wherein the means (28) for selecting a bearer is so adapted that the first device (11) attempts to connect to the second device (12) based on an association of the second device (12) linking the second device (12) to a name of an intended recipient.~~

19. Canceled.

~~20. (Previously presented) A system comprising a first device (11) and a second device (12), with the first device (11) including an apparatus for enabling the first device (11) to provide a connection (14) to the second device (12), the system characterized in that the apparatus comprises:~~

~~—— means (11a) for obtaining from a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') association information including a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14), wherein the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') associates contacts with bearers so as to arrange the association information by contact, and~~

~~—— means (11a) for selecting one of the at least two possible bearers based on a predetermined selection strategy (11b) or by trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until the connection (14) is made;~~

~~—thereby enabling automatic selection of a bearer for providing the connection (14) to the second device (12) without requiring an input by a user of the first device (11) at the time of providing the connection (14).~~

20. Canceled.

~~21. (Original) A system as in claim 20, further characterized in that the apparatus also comprises:~~

~~—means (20) for storing the association information in a contacts bearer data store (11d 11d'); and~~

~~—means (24) by which the first device (11) refers to the contacts bearer data store (11d 11d') accessible to the first device (11) to obtain a list of at least two possible bearers for providing the connection (14).~~

21. Canceled.

~~22. (Original) A system as in claim 20, wherein the predetermined selection strategy (11b) indicates selecting a bearer based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list (11d 11d') hosted in the first device (11); fastest to connect when the first device (11) attempts to make different connections in parallel to the second device (12) via different possible bearers; wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.~~

22. Canceled.

~~23. (Original) A system as in claim 20, wherein the association information (11d 11d') includes a bearer identifier for each of at least two different bearers associated with the second device~~

~~(12).~~

23. Canceled.

~~24. (Original) A system as in claim 20, further characterized in that the apparatus is such that the means (28) for selecting a bearer is so adapted that the first device (11) attempts to connect to the second device (12) based on an association of the second device (12) linking the second device (12) to a name of an intended recipient.~~

24. Canceled.

25. (New) An apparatus for use in a communication device, comprising:

a contacts bearer data store, for storing association information for a contact that is indicated in the contacts bearer data store by an identifier, the association information including a list of at least two possible bearers for providing a connection to the contact, wherein each of the possible bearers for the contact is stored so as to be associated with the contact via the identifier for the contact; and

a network/ bearer selector, for selecting from the contacts bearer data store one of the at least two possible bearers for the contact based on the identifier and either based on a predetermined selection strategy or based on trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until the connection is made;

wherein the apparatus is configured to select the bearer for the contact automatically without requiring an input by a user of the communication device.

26. (New) An apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the contacts bearer data store is configured to include for each of the

possible bearers for the contact an indication of the contact, a bearer identifier, and an address for use with the bearer.

27. (New) A method, comprising:

storing in a contacts bearer data store a plurality of bearers forming a list of possible bearers for a contact that is indicated by an identifier in the contacts bearer data store, wherein the bearers are for use in communicating with the contact and are stored in the contacts bearer data store so as to be associated with the contact via the identifier; and

selecting a bearer for the contact from the list of possible bearers for the contact based on the identifier, and attempting to establish communication with the contact using the selected bearer.

28. (New) A method as in claim 27, further comprising referring to an owner bearer data store to obtain a list of available bearers for establishing a connection with a communication device, and determining a list of both possible and available bearers for communicating with the contact by eliminating from the list of possible bearers for the contact any bearer that does not occur on the list of available bearers.

29. (New) A method as in claim 27, wherein the selecting of a bearer for the contact is based also on a predetermined selection strategy or is based also on trying each of the possible bearers in turn until a connection is made for communication with the contact.

30. (New) A method as in claim 29, wherein the predetermined strategy indicates selecting a bearer for the contact based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list;

and fastest to connect; and wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.

31. (New) A method as in claim 27, wherein for each bearer for the contact the contacts bearer data store includes an indication of the contact, a bearer identifier, and an address for use with the bearer.

32. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

data store means for storing a plurality of bearers forming a list of bearers for a contact that is indicated by an identifier in the data store means, wherein the bearers are for use in communicating with the contact and the data store means is configured to store the bearers for the contact so as to be associated with the contact via the identifier; and

means for selecting a bearer for the contact from the list of possible bearers for the contact based on the identifier, and for attempting to establish communication with the contact using the selected bearer.

33. (New) An apparatus as in claim 32, wherein the contacts bearer data store is configured to include for each bearer for the contact an indication of the contact, a bearer identifier, and an address for use with the bearer.

34. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a contacts bearer data store, for storing a plurality of bearers forming a list of possible bearers for a contact that is indicated by an identifier in the contacts bearer data store, wherein the bearers are for use in communicating with the contact and the contacts bearer data store is configured to store the

bearers for the contact so as to be associated with the contact via the identifier; and

a network/ bearer selector, for selecting a bearer for the contact from the list of possible bearers for the contact based on the identifier, and for attempting to establish communication with the contact using the selected bearer.

35. (New) An apparatus as in claim 34, wherein the network/ bearer selector is configured to refer to an owner bearer data store to obtain a list of bearers available for communication, and to determine a list of both possible and available bearers for the contact by eliminating from the list of possible bearers for the contact any bearer that does not occur on the list of available bearers.

36. (New) An apparatus as in claim 34, wherein the network/ bearer selector is configured to select the bearer for the contact based also on a predetermined selection strategy or based also on trying each of the bearers in turn until the connection is made for communication with the contact.

37.. (New) An apparatus as in claim 36, wherein the predetermined strategy indicates selecting a bearer based on at least one of the following selection criteria: acceptable price; acceptable bandwidth; acceptable latency; as ordered in a list; and fastest to connect; and wherein the acceptable price, acceptable bandwidth, and acceptable latency are as compared to predetermined thresholds for price, bandwidth and latency.

38. (New) An apparatus as in claim 34, wherein for each bearer for the contact the contacts bearer data store is configured to include an indication of the contact, a bearer identifier, and an address for use with the bearer.

39. (New) A method for use by a wireless communication device, comprising:

receiving an input from a user of the wireless communication device indicating a command for contacting a second user;

obtaining association information relating to contacting the second user, wherein the association information includes at least two possible bearers for establishing a wireless communication connection with any of one or more devices of the second user, and the association information is related to contacting the second user via an identifier of the second user included with or indicated in the association information;

selecting one of the at least two possible bearers for contacting the second user based on the identifier; and

attempting to establish communication with the second user by initializing a wireless communication connection via the selected bearer.

40. (New) A method as in claim 39, wherein the selecting of a bearer is based on a predetermined selection strategy.

41. (New) A method as in claim 39, wherein the selecting of a bearer is based on trying each of the possible bearers in turn until a connection is made for communication with the second user.

42. (New) An apparatus, for use by a wireless communication device, comprising:

means for receiving an input from a user of the wireless communication device indicating a command for contacting a second user;

means for obtaining association information relating to contacting the second user, wherein the association information includes at least two possible bearers for establishing a wireless

communication connection with any of one or more devices of the second user, and the association information is related to contacting the second user via an identifier of the second user included with or indicated in the association information;

means for selecting one of the at least two possible bearers for contacting the second user based on the identifier; and

means for attempting to establish communication with the second user by initializing a wireless communication connection via the selected bearer.

43. (New) An apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the selecting of a bearer is based on a predetermined selection strategy or is based on trying each of the possible bearers in turn until a connection is made for communication with the second user.

44. (New) An apparatus, for use by a wireless communication device, comprising a processor configured to:

receive an input from a user of the wireless communication device indicating a command for contacting a second user;

obtain association information relating to contacting the second user, wherein the association information includes at least two possible bearers for establishing a wireless communication connection with any of one or more devices of the second user, and the association information is related to contacting the second user via an identifier of the second user included with or indicated in the association information;

select one of the at least two possible bearers for contacting the second user based on the identifier; and

attempt to establish communication with the second user by initializing a wireless communication connection via the selected bearer.

45. (New) An apparatus as in claim 44, wherein the selecting of a bearer is based on a predetermined selection strategy.

46. (New) An apparatus as in claim 44; wherein the selecting of a bearer is based on trying each of the at least two possible bearers in turn until a connection is made for communication with the second user.

47. (New) An apparatus as in claim 44, wherein for each bearer the association information includes an indication of the second user via an identifier for the second user, a bearer identifier, and an address for use with the bearer.

48. (New) A method as in claim 1, further comprising receiving an input from a user of the communication device indicating a command to provide a connection for communication with the contact.

49. (New) An apparatus as in claim 15, further comprising means for receiving an input from a user of the communication device indicating a command to provide a connection for communication with the contact.